

Appln No. 09/694,079
Amdt date August 23, 2006
Reply to Office action of May 16, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 26-28, 33-43, 49-57, and 63-74 were pending in this application when last examined by the Examiner. Claims 26, 28, 33-37, 40-43, 49, 52, 64-68, and 71-74 have been amended. Claims 27, 53-57, and 63 have been canceled. Claims 75-87 have been added. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. The amendments are being submitted with a Request for Continued Examination. Entry of the amendments and an early indication of allowance of the now-pending claims 26, 28, 33-43, 49-52, and 64-87 are respectfully requested.

Claims 26-28, 33-43, 49-53, 55-56, and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaiser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,615,408) in view of Wistendahl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,496,981) and Courtney (U.S. Patent No. 5,969,755). Claim 54 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaiser, Wistendahl, and Courtney, in view of Srinivasan et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0023436). Claim 57 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaiser, Wistendahl, and Courtney, in view of Blacketter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,415,438). Claims 64-67, 71-72, and 74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wistendahl in view of Srinivasan and Courtney. Claims 68-70 and 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wistendahl, Srinivasan, and Courtney in view of Kaiser. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

None of the cited references discloses, among other things, the recited "object data packets included in the broadcast signal," and "an object mapping table included in at least a particular one of the plurality of object data packets, the object mapping table including an entry associated with each of the one or more video objects in the particular video frame, each entry in the object mapping table referencing one or more information data structures included in one or more of the plurality of object data packets, the information data structures including information associated with the corresponding video object." (Emphasis added). As such, the cited references fail to teach or suggest the particular manner in which the object mapping table is

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used by the recited processor to retrieve and display information associated with video objects in a video frame.

In Kaiser, any mask data or object data is provided over a data network instead of the recited "broadcast signal."

In Wistendahl, an "'IDM PROG' . . . references the 'hot spot' N Data values as anchors for hyperlinks to other files or executable functions ('GO TO . . .')." (Col. 7, lines 2-4). When a user selects a "hot spot," the IDM program causes a file or function linked to the "hot spot" to be performed. (Col. 7, lines 4-10). Although Wistendahl discloses that the N-Data may be transmitted over the VBI lines, there is no teaching or suggestion that the file or function that is linked to the hot spots are delivered over the recited "broadcast signal."

Srinivasan discloses an authoring system for interactive video which has two or more authoring stations for providing authored metadata to be related to a main video data stream and a multiplexer for relating authored metadata from the authoring sources to the main video data stream. (Abstract). Srinivasan further discloses that the transport of the metadata may be via VBI insertion. (Abstract). However, Srinivasan fails to teach or suggest that the metadata includes an "object mapping table" that has "an entry associated with each of the one or more video objects in the particular video frame, each entry in the object mapping table referencing one or more information data structures included in one or more of the plurality of object data packets."

Courtney discloses a method for providing automatic content-based video indexing based on detected object motion. Courtney, however, has nothing to do with interactive television and fails to teach or suggest the "object data packets" claimed in claim 28.

Blackketter discloses an interactive television trigger with time attribute values that indicates a future time when the trigger is to be executed. Information resources are then retrieved based on the triggers. Blackketter's information resources, however, are retrieved over the Internet and not over a broadcast signal. (See, FIG. 10). Accordingly, independent claim 28 is now in condition for allowance.

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Independent claim 64 includes limitations that are similar to the limitations of claim 28 which makes claim 28 allowable. Accordingly, claim 64 is also in condition for allowance.

Claims 75-87 are new in this application. New claims 75-80 are in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain.

New independent claims 81, 84, and 87 include limitations that are similar to the limitations of claim 28 which make claim 28 allowable. Accordingly, claims 81, 84, and 87 are also in condition for allowance.

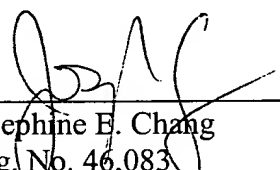
New claims 82-83 and 85-86 depend on either claim 81 or 84. Accordingly, claims 82-83 and 85-86 are in condition for allowance for their dependence on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 26, 28, 33-43, 49-52, and 64-87 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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